

The Intelligencer

VOLUME XLVI--NUMBER 93.

WHEELING, W. VA., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1897.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

THE CIVIL SERVICE.

The Principles of the Measure, as They are Now Applied,

IN EXCEEDINGLY BAD FAVOR

With a Large Number of Republicans and Democrats.

A MOVE TO BE MADE TO-DAY

In the House of Representatives to Test the Temper of that Body--When the General Appropriation Bill is Introduced a Motion will be Made to Strike Out the Item Providing for the Maintenance of the Civil Service Commission--Congressman Miller, of West Virginia, Explains the Attitude of the Opposition.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 8.--When the general appropriation bill comes before the house, as it is expected will occur to-morrow, a motion will be made to strike out the item providing for the maintenance of the civil service commission. This will be supported by men who are not in favor of the abolition of the law, but who feel that they prefer even that to a continuance of a system that has become, in their judgment, a farce, so far as the original intent and proper application of civil service principles are concerned.

The motion to strike out will receive a hearty vote, which will not be wholly Republican. Democrats are just as much opposed to the present status of affairs as are the Republicans, but being in the minority they have not the same reason for aggressiveness. Yet they want to see some action taken, looking to a modification of the law.

Five Democratic representatives and one Republican formed a group to-night at a hotel where many representatives and several senators are domiciled. The six were in favor of modification, but if not that, then repeal.

Representative Miller, of West Virginia, said to-night that he would vote to strike out the appropriation which the motion he made. He will do so, not as an enemy of civil service, but as an opponent of the law as it will be administered. Mr. Miller believes there are classes of public servants who should be protected by a rigid law, not for their own sake but for the good of the service. In this class he includes those who are engaged in intricate work, and to displace whom with inexperienced persons, would be detrimental to the public interests. He also includes postal clerks, and would not object to other branches which he did not take time to enumerate. He is of the opinion, however, that if the law cannot be restored to its original purpose it would be better to repeal it.

Mr. Miller speaks hopefully of Republican prospects, and of business conditions. His committee work has not yet been inaugurated, and he is devoting his attention to the interests of his constituents as the opportunities present.

It is stated to-night that all of the appropriation bills are well advanced. It is expected that Mr. Dingley will present one to-morrow, and that Mr. Cannon will add the one he has charge of within a few days.

SHORT SESSIONS

Of the Senate and House--Cuban Question in the Former Body.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 8.--Today's session of the senate occupied less than an hour, the time principally being consumed by the members in the presentation of memorials, resolutions and bills.

A resolution presented by Mr. Allen, (Pop., Neb.) declaring it to be the sense of the senate that the United States should recognize the political independence of Cuba was made the subject of some remarks by the Nebraska senator, in the course of which he criticized the President for not carrying into effect the pledge of the Republican party made in its last national platform to recognize the independence of the Cuban republic. At the conclusion of Mr. Allen's remarks, the senate by resolution of Mr. Hoar (Mass.), adjourned as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Ashley B. Wright, one of the members of the house of representatives, from Massachusetts.

The session of the house to-day lasted only fifteen minutes. Mr. W. A. Stone, (Rep., Penn.), reported the pension appropriation bill, the first of the appropriation bills, and gave notice that he should call it up immediately after the reading of the journal to-morrow. The committees on election, and the committee on banking and currency were given leave to sit during the sessions of the house. Then, at 12:15, the house adjourned.

HAWAIIAN ANNEXATION.

In Danger of Not Receiving the Appropriation of the Mixed Senate.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 8.--It is stated by those in a position to know that the reason the Hawaiian treaty is not pushed in the senate is because the friends of the measure have grave doubts as to their ability to secure the necessary two-thirds vote to pass it. The impression prevails that it may be necessary to pass a joint resolution and annex the islands by legislation. It has been found that a number of senators who were confidently counted on for the treaty, are against it, while others have expressed doubts about the treaty.

Proposed Conference on Civil Service.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.--A paper was circulated in the house of representatives to-day with a view of bringing about a conference of those members favorable to a change in the present civil service system. The paper was headed by Representative Pearson, of North Carolina, and received numerous signatures. The purpose, it is understood, is to make the conference non-political in character and to extend it outside of the membership of the civil service commission, as some of the men most active in urging a revision of the law are not on this committee. Gen. Grosvenor, of Ohio, is among these. He approved the plan at a conference and it is likely to be held at an early day.

Wintering Expedition Frustrated.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.--News has reached here of the frustration of an attempt to convey a store of ammunition

and munitions of war to the Cuban insurgents just at the moment when it had apparently succeeded. About the middle of September a steamer, painted black, appeared near Cienfuegos, and landed a stock of ammunition and twenty men under the leadership of Joseph Cepero, a naturalized American citizen, who, after having been held in a Cuban jail for nearly a year, was released by the Spanish government last July. The expedition got inland, but a month later the Spanish authorities discovered nearly 500 boxes of ammunition for Remington and Mauser rifles concealed in a shallow creek and carried it to town. Later Cepero led an attack upon a small town and killed several of the inhabitants, including a woman.

BIG WHEAT DEAL.

Various Cliques Operating Against Each Other--An Alleged Spec.

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Dec. 8.--The Journal prints to-day what it claims to be the inside of the Armour wheat deal and explanation of the clash between that astute operator and the Chicago bull clique. The latter is said to be much stronger than was supposed. It has developed that L. Z. Leiter is one of the principals in the bull clique, and that George B. French is the active manager of its interests. The clique views with composure the Armour plan of buying wheat in the Minneapolis market and shipping it to Chicago and delivering it under contract so late in December that the freezing of the river will prevent its shipment east. It is supposed that Armour expected thus to secure the storage of a large share of the wheat for his Chicago elevators until spring.

It will come as a genuine surprise to the trade to learn that the clique far from permitting the wheat to remain in storage all winter, will ship it all by rail to the east, where it has already engaged Boston and New York tonnage for Europe. In this way the December wheat will be eliminated from the situation. The Journal asserts that the bull clique is engineering no artificial corner and will try to squeeze no one. The clique believe that a legitimate advance is inevitable in May and is acting on that theory.

The supposition is the Minneapolis contract will gradually find its way into Chicago.

Big Bicycle Race.

NEW YORK, Dec. 9.--At midnight the indomitable eighteen were still pedaling their way, lap after lap around the high banked floor of the Madison Square Garden. From midnight to midnight Miller had put more than 350 miles behind him. This marvelous record on the day of the race carried him along to a total of more than 1,200 miles in seventy-one hours, 129 miles ahead of the former record. The score at 1:15 o'clock this morning was: Miller, 1,238 miles, four laps; Rice, 1,162 miles, 7 laps; Riviere, 1,157 miles, 2 laps; Schmeider, 1,143 miles, 8 laps; Moore, 1,093 miles, 4 laps; Waller, 1,096 miles, 2 laps; Pierce, 1,070 miles, 5 laps; Hale, 1,067 miles, 1 lap; Stephens, 1,025 miles, 4 laps; Elkes, 1,000 miles, 1 lap; Golden, 1,017 miles, 6 laps; Enterman, 958 miles, 3 laps; Kinz, 922 miles, 6 laps; Gannon, 922 miles; Julius, 873 miles, 5 laps; Beacons, 718 miles, 5 laps; Gray, 726 miles, 1 lap; Johnson, 671 miles, 5 laps. Miller was 160 miles, 4 laps ahead of the record for seventy-three hours.

Tell-Tale Tattoo.

NEW YORK, Dec. 8.--William J. Graham and Mollie Thomas, both about 30 years of age, were arrested here this afternoon at the request of the chief of police at Toledo, Ohio, who charges them with having stolen \$125 from Wm. Havers, of that city, on September 23 last. At police headquarters the woman stoutly denied her identity. An examination of the woman was made by the matron and tattoo marks "Neil to John" were disclosed on her right arm and the design of a heart on her breast. These correspond to the descriptions telegraphed from Toledo. The prisoners will be held for extradition.

Charged with a Grave Offense.

NEW YORK, Dec. 8.--Charles P. Fisher, alias J. B. Ford, reached this city to-day on board the steamer Teutonic from England. Fisher is in custody of a detective from Cincinnati, to which place he is being taken to answer to the charge of forgery, by which he is alleged to have obtained a considerable sum of money from the Cincinnati Coffer Company. He is also accused of having been one of a gang of letter box robbers who have operated in most of the large cities of the United States.

Mrs. Butler's Resignation Accepted.

CHICAGO, Dec. 8.--Miss Frances E. Willard, of the W. C. T. U., has accepted the resignation of Mrs. Josephine Butler as superintendent of the purity department. Leaders of the movement say that after the clear and explicit statements made in the recent resolution at Toronto, and in the president's annual address, it would be useless to endeavor to express with greater clearness the opposition of white ribbon women everywhere to any form of license involving social vice.

Cotton Operatives' Wages Reduced.

FALL RIVER, Mass., Dec. 8.--At a general meeting of the Cotton Manufacturers' Association to-day it was voted unanimously to reduce all wages in the mills of the city, the amount and time of the reduction being left to a committee which for some time has had charge of the matter. It is understood that the cut will be not less than 10 per cent, and that it will go into effect January 1. The cut will affect 28,000 operatives who are paid an aggregate weekly wage of \$150,000.

A Slick Confidence Game.

ALBANY, N. Y., Dec. 8.--Governor Black made a requisition on the governor of Ohio to-day for the extradition of Samuel Jacobs, who is under arrest in Cleveland, having been indicted in New York city for defrauding Max Bernstein out of \$12,192 on a bogus gold dust scheme. Jacobs sold Bernstein sixty-seven pounds of rubbish on the representation that it was pure gold.

Depressed Condition of Cotton Market.

FALL RIVER, Mass., Dec. 8.--The Fall River cotton manufacturers at a special meeting to-day voted to reduce the wages of the operatives. The cut will not be less than ten per cent, and will affect about 25,000 employees. The cause of the reduction is the depressed condition of the cotton market, which does not enable print cloth, it is asserted, to be manufactured for the price now prevailing, which is the lowest on record.

Hardware Dealers Fall.

CHICAGO, Dec. 8.--Horton, Gilmore, McWilliams & Co., wholesale hardware dealers, 175-176 Lake street, assigned to the Illinois Trust and Savings Bank to-day. The liabilities are \$100,000 and the assets \$210,000.

EASTHAM'S TRIAL.

The Prosecution Rests, and Defense Will Open To-day.

THE EVIDENCE INTRODUCED

By the Last Witnesses Tends to Prove That Eastham Gave Great Provocation, and Fired the First Shot in the Distressing Tragedy--Testimony of the White-Haired Father of the Murdered Man Draws Tears From the Jurymen.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

PARSONS, W. Va., Dec. 8.--The state rested this evening in the Eastham case, and the defense will begin to-morrow.

S. W. Grogan testified to-day that he stood on the station platform and saw all of the shooting through the car window. He first saw two streams of fire shoot from the direction of Eastham toward Thompson before he saw any flashes in return. The reports of the first two shots were sharp and distinct; there was a pause, and then the firing became indiscriminate.

H. D. Cole avers that he sat two seats behind Thompson, saw Eastham strike him in the mouth, knocking him back in his seat. Eastham stepped two steps forward, turned and thrust his hand in his right coat pocket. Thompson then arose and drew a pistol from his hip pocket, holding it down at his side, hesitatingly, a moment, and then shifted it in front of his body, pressed it close to himself and covered it with his other hand. Then the first two shots were fired, but not by Thompson, for the witness never took his eyes off the latter's revolver, and swore positively that Thompson did not fire those first two shots.

Ex-Judge Holt testified to threats, of record in his court when he was on the bench, made by Eastham against Thompson, and indirectly under the circumstances sanctioned Thompson's arming himself.

Albert Thompson, the white haired father of the deceased, then told the story of the whole trouble, which culminated in the shooting to death of his only son, and his recital drew tears from the jury and expressions of sympathy from counsel for the defense, who declined to cross-examine him.

WOLCOTT CONVICTED

Of Murder in First Degree--Jury Recommends Life Imprisonment.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

HUNTINGTON, W. Va., Dec. 8.--The jury in the Frank Wolcott case, at 3 o'clock this afternoon, found the accused guilty of murder in the first degree, and recommended confinement in the penitentiary.

The accused shot and killed William Webb, in a restaurant on the 10th of October last. Webb was the son of Rev. Dr. J. W. Webb, who was formerly a leading minister in the Methodist Episcopal church, who since the murder of his son, fell on the sidewalk in this city, and died from the effects of it.

The counsel on both sides have made a hard fight and every doctor in the county was a witness in the case, the plea of the defense being insanity. There is much sympathy for the family of Wolcott.

DEATH OF MRS. J. H. SHAFFER.

Of Aurora, Preston County--Her End Painless and Telemphatic.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

AURORA, W. Va., Dec. 8, 1897.--One of the noblest and sweetest lives that have been lived in this community ended Monday morning shortly after 5 o'clock. Diana, wife of J. H. Shaffer, who had been dangerously ill for several months, passed away at that time. She ended peacefully and peacefully, and retained consciousness to her family and speaking to members of her family and to those who were unable to reach the home before death came.

The funeral services, which were conducted yesterday at 2 o'clock by Rev. A. F. Richardson, of Grafton, W. Va., assisted by Rev. G. A. Royer, were attended by young and old throughout the surrounding country.

Mrs. Shaffer possessed a passionate fondness for flowers, and the many fine specimens which grew in her conservatory and adorned her home were the admiration of all who saw them.

State Supreme Court.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

CHARLESTON, W. Va., Dec. 8.--The supreme court handed down the following opinions:

Maxwell vs. Burbridge, from the circuit court of Doddridge county, opinion by Judge McWhorter; reversed and remanded.

Elton vs. Adams, from the circuit court of Tucker county, opinion by Judge Dent; affirmed, divided court.

Lang vs. Pline, from the circuit court of Taylor county, opinion by Judge Brannon; affirmed.

Norfolk & Western railroad vs. McDonald, from the circuit court of Jefferson county, opinion by Judge Brannon; modified and affirmed.

Nye, assignee, vs. Baltimore & Ohio railroad, from the circuit court of Taylor county, opinion by Judge English; reversed and remanded.

Court adjourned until Saturday.

Recent Pensions.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.--James D. Elchberger, of Fellsburg, W. Va., has been granted a re-issue of pension at the rate of \$17 per month, and Sarah E. Hildreth, widow, of Alliance, W. Va., a pension at \$12 per month.

The pension of James O. Blackman, of Steubenville, Ohio, has been increased to \$5 per month.

Got Sixty Days and a Fine.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

SISTERSVILLE, W. Va., Dec. 8.--Word has been received from Middlebourne, that all the men charged with selling liquor without license, who have been tried out there, have been sentenced to sixty days in jail and to pay a fine of \$10 and costs.

Prominent Young Fairmount Dead.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

FAIRMONT, W. Va., Dec. 8.--Harry, oldest child of Mr. and Mrs. George F. Carrell, died at the home of his parents this morning, about 5 o'clock, of consumption. He was about twenty-eight years of age, and unmarried.

Big Lumber Cut.

MONTREAL, Dec. 8.--The estimate of the lumber cut in the Ottawa valley during the season places it at about 724,000,000 feet, which is somewhat more than last year.

THE PRESIDENT'S MOTHER

Is Gradually Growing Weaker--She Has Dropped Into a Pained Sleep--End Very Near.

CANTON, O., Dec. 9, 3 a. m.--Mrs. McKinley has lapsed into unconsciousness. Her death is expected at any moment. The President is at her bedside.

CANTON, O., Dec. 8.--All day the children of Mrs. Nancy Allison McKinley were near her bedside, watching for indications of a hopeful change. They were disappointed. There was no ray of light on the face which betokened returning consciousness. She has been lying in lethargic repose as if in sleep most of the time. She is gradually but surely growing weaker. Mr. Abner McKinley says the family are hoping against hope that she may show a better condition, but her state during the day has been such that the watchers think the end is gradually drawing near.

The President is almost constantly at her bedside, refusing to be relieved by others and to take the rest and exercise he should.

During the evening Mother McKinley again aroused from her pained sleep. She lay quietly and restfully on her bed, the President at her side, watching intently and hopefully for some sign of recognition. The awakening, however, was not accompanied by any appreciable rally. This was the condition at 11:30 o'clock. Up to that hour the patient remained in the deep sleep in which she reposed all day. When the doctor made his last call, finding her in this sleep, he thought she would live until morning. She was still growing weaker, but so slowly that unless a material change came her strength would hold out during the night.

SPANISH VIEWS

Of President McKinley's Message Seem to Be Very Satisfactory.

MADRID, Dec. 8.--Premier Sagasta,

in an interview regarding President McKinley's message to the United States Congress, is quoted as saying he thinks the message satisfactory, "because the threat to intervene in Cuba was made merely for the satisfaction of a portion of American opinion without the intention of executing it."

Continuing the premier said that the government would not make a declaration on the subject. He believed the President's words would have influence with the insurgents, and added that the cortes would not be convoked until the government had ascertained the effect of the message upon the United States Congress.

The friendliness of the message surprised the most sanguine expectations of the friends of the government. There is loud praise for President McKinley in official and political circles for having, as they say, thus cleared the way for a fair trial of the new colonial policy in the West Indies, which will naturally require time.

The Spanish liberals are particularly pleased with the President's arguments against recognition of the belligerency of the Cubans, and the implicit repudiation of recognition of belligerency, annexation of the island or extreme interference with the rights of Spain in Cuba. They are equally delighted with that part of the message recognizing how quickly and completely they had reversed the Canovas-Vieyra policy, and the sincerity of their own home rule measures.

Circle of official circles satisfaction is very visible in financial circles and also of the general public.

La Correspondencia de Espana, the official organ, says that after reflection, Spanish opinion on President McKinley's message to the United States Congress is less optimistic than at first. It proceeds to impugn the sincerity of the President's protestation of friendship for Spain and of respect for international obligation, but it admits that the message was "addressed to congress principally and in language which, although not intended to please Spain, will annoy Jingoism and filibusters."

Spanish Press Comments.

MADRID, Dec. 8.--El Liberal says, in commenting on President McKinley's message:

"It is more favorable to Spain than President Cleveland's message because it recognizes Spain's intention to enthusiastically labor to establish peace in Cuba."

The ministerial El Globo praises President McKinley's message.

The Socialist Republican El Pais asserts that the message is "shameful, as it implied the moral bankruptcy of the monarchy."

The Republican Progreso takes the ground that the message is a "great humiliation."

The impartial commenting on the message says: "It shows a certain cleverness and evil intention. Again it resorts to filibustering expedients. McKinley speaks with what appears to be excessive cynicism to those who have not lost all notion of justice. This government must show the Yankees that the Spanish flag floats over Cuba, and that they have yet to tear it down."

In conclusion the impartial remarks: "The manufactured and sale of arms is not the same thing as using them."

REPORTED DEFEAT

Of Insurgent Forces in Cuba Under Gen. Gomez's Command.

HAVANA, Dec. 8.--The Spanish military officials here announced to-day that columns of troops belonging to the military district of Sancti Spiritus, province of Santa Clara, acting in conjunction, have been engaged at the Delicias farm with an insurgent force under General Maximo Gomez. The government troops, it is further stated, captured the insurgent camp and a quantity of arms, ammunition and the medicine chest. The insurgents, it appears, left twenty-five men killed on the field. The troops lost five soldiers killed and had two officers and twenty-three men wounded.

A Remarkable Voyage.

DETROIT, Mich., Dec. 8.--The long anticipated Michigan States steamship, Yantic, arrived at 1 o'clock this morning, after a long and vexatious voyage from Boston. The ship is now in possession of the Detroit naval reserve. She will be docked and overhauled. Her false forward wood work, which was taken off in order to get the steamer through the St. Lawrence canal, will be replaced, as well as her spars, rigging, etc., which is now piled upon the decks. Crowds of people visited the new acquisition of the lake navy to-day. The vessel is thirty-three years old, but sound and well adapted for a training ship.

Henry Getting "Duffy," Too.

BREITLIN, Dec. 8.--Prince Henry of Prussia, started for Kiel this afternoon. He met Prince Bismarck at Hamburg, and on leaving him, said: "Let me also salute that brow which my grandfather so often kissed."

He then kissed Bismarck on the forehead and cheek. The aged statesman wished him a safe voyage, good success and a happy return.

Dr. Schweitzer, Prince Bismarck's physician, says the prince will soon recover from the effects of his recent neuralgia pains.

A BIG SENSATION

Created Among the Legal Fraternity of Pittsburgh

OVER THE POSTPONEMENT

Of the Execution of the Negro Murderer Hill--Will Bring About a Conflict Between the State Supreme Court and the Constitution--Hill's Attorney Claims That He is Legally Dead, and Will Ask for a Writ of Habeas Corpus to Have the Body Turned Over to His Friends, First Case of the Kind on Record.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Dec. 8.--The execution of the negro Philip Hill, which was set for to-day, has been postponed indefinitely. Failing to hear favorably from Governor Hastings upon the application of Hill's mother for a respite, his attorney took out a writ of error to the supreme court this morning, and upon the advice of counsel that the appeal acted as a supersedeas and stopped the execution, pending the supreme court decision, Sheriff Lowry postponed the execution. The writ of error is returnable October 1, next. Hill was convicted of the murder of George Lawrence, a railroad laboring boy.

The postponement of Hill's execution and the turn the matter has taken, has created a sensation among the legal fraternity and bids fair to bring about a conflict between the state supreme court and the constitution. The case is said to be the first of the kind on record in this state and probably has no parallel in any other. According to the opinion of many of the leading members of the legal fraternity, Hill cannot now be hanged and the following declaration made by George H. Kane, one of the young members of the Allegheny county bar, who acted as Hill's counsel, is supported by several judges as well as lawyers. Mr. Kane says:

"Philip Hill is legally dead; we shall ask for a writ of habeas corpus to have his body turned over to his friends, and if necessary, will take the case through the supreme court of the United States. The writ of error as we notified Governor Hastings, should not have acted as a supersedeas or stay of execution under the act of 1857, and he is regarded by the law, as I see it, as dead."

Governor Hastings set the date of Hill's execution as December 8, between the hours of 10 a. m. and 3 p. m. and refused to grant Hill a respite or interfere with the execution, and as the law stands, the sheriff was therefore obliged to execute him according to the terms of the governor's warrant; and, not having done so, Hill, in law, is therefore legally dead, and Hill's people are entitled to the body.

"The governor has no power, nor any other officer of the state or judge thereof, to set another date for the execution. If this be the law Hill is therefore entitled to go free."

Habeas corpus proceedings for the possession of Hill's body will be instituted at once.

The postponement of the execution by the writ of error is something unheard of in this state before. It is almost exactly a parallel case to that of Theodore Durrant, the San Francisco murderer, whose execution was prevented by the same sort of an application, but, according to the laws of California, the sheriff can fix the date for the hanging himself, afterwards.

DURRANT'S LAST HOPE

Dispelled by the Decision of the Supreme Court of California.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 8.--Late this afternoon the supreme court dispelled the last hope of W. H. T. Durrant, the convicted murderer of Blanche Lamont and Minnie Williams, by disposing of his two appeals in a summary manner.

In a written opinion from the pen of Chief Justice Beatty, which is concurred in by all but one of his associates, the court affirms the judgment of Judge Babers in remanding the prisoner to San Quentin until the date set for his execution, but reverses the sentencing of Durrant to be hanged on November 11, and remands the case to the superior court with instructions to act accordingly.

As the remittur was ordered issued forthwith, and the court holds that execution can only be stayed now by the issuance of a certificate of probable cause, it only remains to re-sentence the condemned murderer, which will probably be done to-morrow.

Justice Garoutte alone dissented from this opinion, maintaining that Durrant's appeal should have been dismissed, as the time required by law for their perfection has been allowed to lapse.

The Falls of the Wicked.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec. 8.--Hacked to pieces with an axe, the body of Roy Erickson, a maker of wicker baskets, was found shortly after midnight in an old shanty on Main avenue. In the next room sat William West, whose daughter Erickson was accused of having ruined, and James Garrahan, the owner of the shanty. It is the theory of the police that West and Garrahan lured Erickson into the shanty and then hacked him to pieces. When the pair were discovered they were enjoying a social smoke.

West's daughter, who is said to have been ruined by Erickson, was sent to the reform school at Plankinton, and was a few weeks ago burned to death in the fire there.

First Time a Widow Was Tripped Up.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 8.--An Miss Flo Irwin, the star of the "Widow Jones" company, tripped on the stage at a local theatre last evening. In the middle of the third act, her foot caught an electric light wire that had carelessly been left exposed across the floor from her dressing room to the stage. She was so shocked by the current that she fainted as she reached the stage. The curtain was rung down and the performance closed abruptly. Miss Irwin was carried to her room. It required twenty minutes' persistent attention to restore the "widow" to consciousness and it was an hour later before she was able to be taken to her hotel.

Grand Army Meeting.

HARRISBURG, Pa., Dec. 8.--General at 10 a. m., commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, has called a meeting of the executive committee of the national council at Cincinnati, December 15. The date for the next national encampment will be selected by the council.

THE TODD-SLAGLE WEDDING.

How the Romantic Event was Viewed in Pittsburgh.

The following is from yesterday's Pittsburgh Commercial Gazette:

The announcement by telegraph yesterday, of the marriage of Miss Mary Louise Slagle, daughter of the Hon. Jacob F. Slagle, of Pittsburgh, and Mr. James Todd, of Allegheny, occasioned a great deal of surprise. It was not only a surprise to the friends of the young people, but to their families as well. The wedding took place yesterday in Wheeling, West Virginia, the marriage ceremony being performed by the Rev. N. St. Thomas, rector of St. Matthew's Protestant Episcopal church, of that city.

Miss Slagle is the eldest daughter of Judge Slagle, and has been a great favorite with her associates. She is a graduate of Bishop Bowman Institute of the class of '95, and is talented as a musician and as a writer. She has written several plays which have been presented by the young girls in the institute, and her name has appeared occasionally in eastern periodicals.

Since its organization she has been very prominent in the Alumnae association of the Bowman Institute, and was one of the most active in securing the service of Miss Julia Marlowe at the benefit matinee given last winter in the Pittsburgh Club theater. She is also a great favorite in society. It is very evident that her sudden marriage is a shock to her parents, whose home on Center avenue is one of culture and refinement. Judge Slagle is president of the Art Society, and at its receptions has almost invariably been accompanied by his daughter.

Mrs. Anne T. Hampton, mother of the groom, with whom he lived at No. 127 North avenue, Allegheny, had just returned from a visit to relatives out of the city, after an absence of several days. When she heard of her son's marriage she was much surprised. She said last night that she was aware that Mr. Todd had been paying marked attention to Miss Slagle for some time past, but he had never hinted at an approaching marriage. She stated that the supposed elopement will be explained to the satisfaction of everybody when the bridal couple return.